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From: Skahen, Mary (EHS) <mary.skahen@massmail.state.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 4:38 PM
To: Corbett, Kate (DPH)
Subject: DPH Laboratory Update

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to thank you for your dedication on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, and I also want to update you on important developments at the former DPH Drug Lab, located at the Hinton State Laboratory in Jamaica Plain.

You may have read in the paper or seen on TV accounts about significant issues that have come to light regarding the lab. These issues involve thousands of drug samples that were under the care of a former chemist who is no longer employed by the Commonwealth. The events at the drug lab showed a lapse in oversight that seriously impacts our justice system.

I have joined Governor Patrick, Attorney General Coakley, Public Safety Secretary Heffernan, district attorneys, defense attorneys and members of the Legislature to discuss the magnitude of challenges we are facing and the action steps needed to address these issues.

We are working together to create a central location for law enforcement and others to evaluate the many documents and databases to determine how many cases have been affected and to ensure that justice and liberty are protected.

I want to reiterate that we greatly value the effort and expertise you bring to the job every day. Your support and commitment to the Commonwealth is critically important as we move forward to address these challenges together.

Thank you,

JudyAnn Bigby, M.D.

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